



U.S. Department of Energy

Categorical Exclusion Determination Form

Submit by E-mail

Proposed Action Title: Eden GeoPower Inc.-- Electro-Hydraulic Fracturing for Enhanced Geothermal Systems

Program or Field Office: Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy

Location(s) (City/County/State): Somerville, Massachusetts; Cambridge, Massachusetts; Idaho Falls, Idaho

Proposed Action Description:

Funding will support the project team's small-scale research and development of a water-saving rock fracturing technology for enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) (which inject water at high pressure into deep rocks to re-open the natural fractures and allow hot water or steam to flow into extraction wells). Specifically, the project team will (1) develop and test hydraulic proppant materials using modeling and physical experimental conditions, (2) develop and test mechanical components, (3) test combined components under simulation conditions, and (4) conduct field testing of the fracturing system. If successful, this project will increase efficiency of EGS power plants up to 500%, unlock gigawatts of electrical output (GWe) thus reducing reliance on fossil fuels, and could reduce ESG water use by billions of gallons.

Project activities will be conducted at existing facilities at Eden GeoPower Inc. (Somerville, MA), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, MA), and Idaho National Labs (Idaho Falls, ID), designed for the applicable activities. Project tasks will be conducted in accordance with established safety and materials/waste management protocols and pursuant to applicable Federal, State, and local regulatory requirements. No modifications will be made to existing facilities to accommodate the proposed work. Eden GeoPower has not yet obtained all necessary permits and approvals for the activities planned in project milestone 4.3 which include outdoor field testing at a government research site, to be determined later in the project. The project team is prohibited from commencing milestone 4.3 before (1) obtaining all of the necessary permits and approvals and (2) providing certification to ARPA-E of the same.

Categorical Exclusion(s) Applied:

B3.6 - Small-scale research and development, laboratory operations, and pilot projects

B3.11 - Outdoor tests and experiments on materials and equipment components

For the complete DOE National Environmental Policy Act regulations regarding categorical exclusions, including the full text of each categorical exclusion, see Subpart D of [10 CFR Part 1021](#).

Regulatory Requirements in 10 CFR 1021.410(b): (See full text in regulation)

☒ The proposal fits within a class of actions that is listed in Appendix A or B to 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D.

To fit within the classes of actions listed in 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B, a proposal must be one that would not: (1) threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, or similar requirements of DOE or Executive Orders; (2) require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities (including incinerators), but the proposal may include categorically excluded waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment actions or facilities; (3) disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or unpermitted releases; (4) have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B; (5) involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.

☒ There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal that may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal.

☒ The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. This proposal is not connected to other actions with potentially significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.25(a)(1)), is not related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions during preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Based on my review of the proposed action, as NEPA Compliance Officer (as authorized under DOE Order 451.1B), I have determined that the proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.

NEPA Compliance Officer:

Approved via email

Date Determined: 07/07/2022

(This form will be locked for editing upon signature)